that the advance of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) might provoke a mass civilian exodus to neighbouring countries. He said such an exodus could lead to destabilization in Burundi.

Also on Friday, the Secretary-General met with the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Salim Ahmed Salim. They discussed the situation in Rwanda and the status of troop contributions from African countries to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). Mr. Boutros-Ghali underlined the importance of the time factor in bringing UNAMIR up to its mandated strength. He said the expanded Mission should be ready for deployment before the withdrawal of the French force at the end of this month.

Meanwhile, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for UNAMIR, Shahryar Khan, arrived in Kigali last night. Mr. Khan, a Pakistani national, took office on Friday, replacing Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh of Cameroon.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged Member States to participate in stand-by arrangments which would allow the United Nations to rapidly deploy resources to new or ongoing peace-keeping operations. In a report to the Security Council dated 30 June, the Secretary-General said that not enough resources had been committed so far to mount future operations. There were still deficiences in communications, logistics, health services, engineers and transport.

The Secretary-General said that 21 Member States had confirmed their willingness to provide a total of 30,000 personnel which could, in principle, be called upon. Additional commitments were expected from another 27 States. The stand-by arrangements would give the United Nations detailed information on the forces and capabilities a Member State would contribute, if they agreed to participate in a peace-keeping operation. The Secretariat would maintain a comprehensive data-base of available resources, he added.

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Peace, development and democracy are the main pillars of a stable international system, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a message to the Second International Conference for New and Restored Democracies, which began in Managua yesterday, he said stability could no longer be ensured by a balance of power between military blocs. The message was delivered by Rosario Green, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

Democracy was as important among nations as within them, the Secretary-General stressed. Democratic States were a force for stability and peace, preferring negotiation and compromise to aggression and war. Democracy meant that decisions affecting the world were not taken by a few powerful States, but with the participation of all.

(more)

The Secretary-General said the tasks before the United Nations were indivisible because the promotion of peace, security, economic development and democracy were one and the same. Although the United Nations Charter did not contain the word "democracy", its opening words were "We, the Peoples of the United Nations", he continued. The Organization was legitimized by its foundation on the will and participation of the global community.

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The United Nations Committee on Human Rights yesterday began its fifty-first session, during which it will discuss the state of civil and political rights in Jordan, Libya, Italy, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Burundi and Afghanistan. The Geneva-based Committee, which is composed of 18 independent human rights experts, monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the 127 countries that have ratified the pact.

The Committee relies on, among other things, periodic reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant. It can also ask for urgent reports when it deems that the situation in a State party warrants it, as is the case with Burundi.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the two Agreements signed by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) in Oslo last month consolidate the prospects for an end to 30 years of armed conflict. The parties signed an Agreement on Resettlement of the Population Groups Uprooted by the Armed Conflict on 17 June, and an Agreement on the Establishment of a Commission to Clarify Past Human Rights Violations and Acts of Violence on 23 June.

In a letter to the Security Council and the General Assembly dated 28 June, the Secretary-General noted that neither of the Agreements would come into force until the signing of a final peace agreement. However, the parties had agreed to begin preparatory work at an earlier date. He expressed the hope that the momentum achieved would lead to a resolution of the remaining items on the Timetable for the Negotiation of a Firm and Lasting Peace.

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Some $780,000 has been pledged in response to an urgent appeal by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso, for a programme to help human rights in Burundi. The Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights has recevied pledges from Belgium, France, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland. Other countries have indicated that they will contribute to the programme, which will cost $1.24 million over the next two years.

(more)

The High Commissioner said the quick response to his 25 May appeal proved the international community's willingness to act swiftly, through assistance in the field of human rights, to prevent a crisis in Burundi similar to the one in Rwanda.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has appealed for donations to its $14.5 million project for the voluntary repatriation of 50,000 Somali refugees. Over $5 million has been received to date, and the rest is needed to fund the project for the next six months. Lack of progress towards reconciliation and security problems in Somalia have forced the UNHCR to scale down its plans to repatriate 140,000 refugees.

Up to 35,000 Somalis have registered to return home from Kenya, out of a total of 220,000 refugees there. Other Somali refugees are to be repatriated from Yemen and Ethiopia.

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The World Commission on Culture and Development adopted a draft preliminary outline of its forthcoming world report. The Commission took that action at its fourth meeting at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris last week.

The Commission, which is composed of leading figures who sit in a personal capacity and chaired by former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, is mandated to prepare a plan of action to guide policy-making in the spheres of culture and development. It will submit its final report to the General Conference of UNESCO and the General Assembly next year.

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